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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 22, 2015**

**METRO ARTS ANNOUNCES \$1.9 MILLION IN 2015-2016 GRANT AWARDS;  
NEW AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR 'THRIVE' NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 22, 2015** – The Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts) approved \$1,905,468 in Community Arts grants for the 2016 fiscal year, providing 75 individual grants to the 51 different nonprofit organizations that were successful in Metro Arts' competitive grant review process.

Metro Arts received funding requests totaling more than \$4.2 million, a growing trend that reflects the growth and diversity of arts programming across Davidson County.

The proposals were reviewed by 25 citizen panelists and are funded in four categories: Creation Project Support, Arts Access Project Support, After-School Arts Project Support, and Basic Operating Support. All applicants must meet rigorous artistic, operational and financial standards. Applicants must maintain a public profile of their organization at [www.givingmatters.com](http://www.givingmatters.com) that is reviewed as part of the grant-making process.

The grantees estimate that they will serve more than 3 million participants through performance, exhibition, new art development, arts demonstration and arts education for adults and children.

The Arts Access Project Support category, which received the most applications, funds high-quality arts projects that increase arts access for target populations such as seniors, young people, communities of color and people with disabilities.

"The investments Metro Arts makes in the community are vital," said Jennifer Cole, Metro Arts' executive director. "Our partners serve a growing and diverse population and drive innovation in culture and the arts throughout Davidson County. Our investments in organizations large and small ensure that all Nashvillians have access to the arts in their lives."

Although the FY16 Metro budget did not provide an increase in grants funding, the substitute offered by Councilman Bill Pridemore included new funds to expand THRIVE, a microfund project that provides funding for up to \$4,000 for artist-driven, neighborhood activation projects.

In its first year, THRIVE supported funding for 12 projects in 30 neighborhood sites and engaged more than 3,000 citizens and 200 artists in neighborhoods from Bordeaux to Woodbine. A complete list and description of funded projects is available <http://www.nashville.gov/Arts-Commission/THRIVE.aspx>

Metro Arts reviews THRIVE proposals each month; interested artists/neighborhoods can find complete application information at [www.artsnashville.org](http://www.artsnashville.org)

"We are extremely thankful to the Metro Council, under the leadership of Budget & Finance Committee Chairman Pridemore, for recognizing the value of arts activation in all neighborhoods in Davidson County. Our agency's mission is to drive a vibrant and equitable community through the arts. To do so, we must increase funding the arts over time through grants and projects like THRIVE to make high-quality art accessible to all Nashvillians regardless of income or background," said Cole.

A complete list of FY15 grant awards and other grant program information can be found at [nashville.gov/Arts-Commission/Grants](http://nashville.gov/Arts-Commission/Grants). Metro Arts grants are funded through the operational budget of Metro Nashville & Davidson County.

**About the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission**

The Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission drives a vibrant and equitable community through the arts. More information about grants, training and programs can be found at [www.artsnashville.org](http://www.artsnashville.org). Metro Arts is supported, in part, by the Tennessee Arts Commission.

## Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Grant Allocations

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<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FY16 AWARD</u>
Basic 1	Cheekwood	\$ 118,183
Basic 1	Country Music Foundation	\$ 129,000
Basic 1	Frist Center for the Visual Arts	\$ 130,500
Basic 1	Nashville Symphony Association	\$ 118,183
Basic 1	Tennessee Performing Arts Center	\$ 127,500
Basic 1	Watkins College of Art, Design & Film	\$ 118,183

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FY16 AWARD</u>
Basic 2	Belcourt Theatre	\$ 130,500
Basic 2	Humanities Tennessee	\$ 30,000
Basic 2	Nashville Ballet	\$ 129,000
Basic 2	Nashville Children's Theatre	\$ 88,000
Basic 2	Nashville Opera Association	\$ 105,750
Basic 2	Nashville Repertory Theatre	\$ 68,000

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FY16 AWARD</u>
Basic 3	Actor's Bridge Ensemble Theatre of Nashville, Inc.	\$ 13,250
Basic 3	ALIAS Chamber Ensemble	\$ 7,600
Basic 3	Global Education Center	\$ 28,050
Basic 3	Moves & Grooves	\$ 3,827
Basic 3	Music for Seniors	\$ 9,750
Basic 3	Nashville Film Festival	\$ 65,000
Basic 3	Nashville Jazz Workshop	\$ 49,925
Basic 3	Senior Center for the Arts	\$ 25,200
Basic 3	Southern Word	\$ 22,700
Basic 3	Street Theatre Company	\$ 16,200
Basic 3	Tennessee Association of Craft Artists dba Tennessee Craft	\$ 43,000
Basic 3	The Nashville Shakespeare Festival	\$ 55,000
Basic 3	W.O. Smith/Nashville Community Music School	\$ 63,000

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FY16 AWARD</u>
Basic 4	abrasiveMedia, Inc.	\$ 5,000
Basic 4	Blackbird Theater	\$ 3,925
Basic 4	Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville	\$ 4,200
Basic 4	Choral Arts Link, Inc.	\$ 1,525
Basic 4	Circle Players	\$ 8,750
Basic 4	Grand Master Fiddler Championship Inc.	\$ 2,870
Basic 4	Healing Arts Project, Inc.	\$ 5,575
Basic 4	Metro Nashville Chorus	\$ 4,814
Basic 4	Music City Youth Orchestra	\$ 3,275
Basic 4	Nashville Cultural Arts Project	\$ 8,000
Basic 4	Nashville Jazz Orchestra	\$ 4,050
Basic 4	Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra	\$ 1,700
Basic 4	Tennessee Women's Theater Project	\$ 8,425
Basic 4	Youth Empowerment through Arts & Humanities	\$ 8,950

# Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Grant Allocations

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<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FY16 AWARD</u>
After-School	Center for Refugees and Immigrants of Tennessee	\$ 4,500
After-School	Martha O'Bryan Center	\$ 2,610
After-School	Nashville Children's Theatre	\$ 4,600
After-School	Nashville Opera Association	\$ 4,400
After-School	Nashville Symphony Association	\$ 4,172
After-School	National Museum of African American Music	\$ 4,400
After-School	PENCIL Foundation	\$ 2,305
After-School	Southern Word	\$ 4,800
After-School	Tennessee Performing Arts Center	\$ 4,600
After-School	Tennessee Women's Theater Project	\$ 3,345

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FY16 AWARD</u>
Arts Access	Actors Bridge Ensemble Theatre of Nashville, Inc.	\$ 1,960
Arts Access	Adventure Science Center	\$ 3,125
Arts Access	Belcourt Theatre, Inc.	\$ 3,680
Arts Access	Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee, Inc.	\$ 3,175
Arts Access	Center for Refugees and Immigrants of Tennessee	\$ 1,005
Arts Access	Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville	\$ 1,965
Arts Access	Choral Arts Link, Inc.	\$ 3,175
Arts Access	East Nashville Hope Exchange	\$ 2,513
Arts Access	Global Education Center	\$ 2,145
Arts Access	Healing Arts Project, Inc.	\$ 3,545
Arts Access	Music City Youth Orchestra	\$ 1,000
Arts Access	Music for Seniors	\$ 3,695
Arts Access	Nashville Children's Theatre	\$ 3,705
Arts Access	Nashville Public Television	\$ 3,100
Arts Access	Nashville Symphony Association	\$ 3,685
Arts Access	Native American Indian Association	\$ 3,400
Arts Access	Oasis Center, Inc.	\$ 3,050
Arts Access	Southern Word	\$ 2,675
Arts Access	Tennessee Performing Arts Center	\$ 3,465
Arts Access	Watkins College of Art, Design & Film	\$ 3,175
Arts Access	Youth Empowerment through Arts & Humanities	\$ 3,550

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FY16 AWARD</u>
Creation	abrasiveMedia, Inc.	\$ 2,627
Creation	Choral Arts Link, Inc.	\$ 3,500
Creation	Nashville Ballet	\$ 14,000
Creation	Nashville Repertory Theatre	\$ 14,400
Creation	Tennessee Women's Theater Project	\$ 4,061

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